



January 4, 2018  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

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P.O. BOX 85524  
San Diego, CA 92186-5524  
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2775/2705

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joel San Juan – District 1  
Bill Stewart – District 1  
Rebecca Hernandez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – District 2  
Michael Matthews – District 2  
Jenifer Mendel, Chairperson – District 2  
Deanne George – District 3  
Colin MacKinnon – District 3  
Ed Weiner – District 3  
Tom Behr – District 4  
Jerry Hall, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 4  
John Sturm, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – District 4  
Judith Yates – District 4  
Richard McGaffigan, Member-at-Large (MH) – District 5

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Eyra Leeper – District 1  
Phil Deming – District 5  
Dana Hamilton – District 5  
K.C. Strang – District 5

**STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)  
Ben Parmentier, Administrative Analyst III, Behavioral Health Services  
Phil Ainsworth, Administrative Analyst II, Behavioral Health Services

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting was called to order by Jenifer Mendel, Chair, at 2:28 p.m. at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101, Room 302.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Members of the BHAB introduced themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 21, 2017 (Fall Retreat)**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Colin MacKinnon, the BHAB approved the minutes of October 21, 2017, as written.

AYES: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – December 2017**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Bill Stewart, the BHAB approved the minutes of December 2017, as written.

AYES: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**V. PRESENTATION: COLLABORATIVE COURTS**

**David Mullen, BHS Program Coordinator**

David Mullen came before the board to discuss the San Diego Collaborative Courts system. This is also defined as Diversion Court. This approach utilizes a team of judges, district attorney, public defender, city attorney, sheriff or other law enforcement, probation, and treatment providers. Collaborative courts use support and law enforcement leverage to encourage recovery and reduce recidivism. The participants include lower-risk and non-violent offenders. The program is approximately 18 months in duration.

**DISCUSSION:**

Q: Does this court handle felonies or misdemeanors or both? Do the courts have jurisdiction over the offenders?

A: The cases are mostly misdemeanors. Non-violent felons could get into the program. They are mostly dealing with drug related charges. The courts will have jurisdiction.

Q: Would Laura's Law courts ever get to become a diversion court?

A: It is with different judges. There has only been one case that has been qualified under Laura's Law that is currently in process.

Q: Is this presentation considered a general information only or is there an expansion for the Board of Supervisors?

A: This presentation is general information only to get the word out about diversion courts. I came at the request of the BHAB and Ben Parmentier.

Q: Is there a group that meets that oversees the courts? Is there any talk about a DUI court?

A: I do not have information regarding a DUI court. I do not know of a group that oversees the courts.

Q: To clarify: when talking about violent verses non-violent, is that the actual crime they are charged with or just what they plea to?

A: This is someone going into the program to work out their sentence verses someone going to jail and then going into a program. The courts also look at the history of the offender prior to making a decision.

Q: Would you be able to bring in someone that has completed the program and bring them in as peer assistance?

A: Mentoring normally occurs in the later part in the program and peers continue to come back and support each other at graduation.

Q: Relapse is part of recovery. What happens if you relapse and go in front of the court as a violation to the program?

A: Ultimately, it is up to the judge as to how a relapse will be managed.

Q: What are the three new laws that help with the barriers of people who are incarcerated?

A: I don't know off the top of my head. We are having a meeting to see how it will impact the courts.

Q: How is ongoing mental health issues addressed within the drug courts as far as assessing and providing services?

A: The drug courts have a clinician for each of the courts and can assess for mental health needs and can reach out if services are needed.

Q: I am interested in homeless court. Would you be able to give any examples?

A: They normally meet once per month and it is managed by superior court. They handle minor issues in order to prevent individuals going back to jail.

Q: Is this available to senior citizens? Is this service available to English as a Second Language individuals?

A: The ESL is accommodated for by the court. We have some Spanish speaking only courts in the South Bay area. They provide interpreters if requested by the court. It would be available to seniors. However, we don't see many seniors.

Q: With court fees, what if someone is unable to pay? Would that prevent them from entering the program?

A: There are legal fees that are often waived at the end. They are expected to pay for part of their housing. If they cannot afford the resident program, part of the fees might be taken care of by Medi-Cal.

Q: What happens to people that come out of Behavioral Health Court?

A: They graduate into an independent living situation. The courts do a great job to assess people and get people into the correct programs. With the behavioral health courts, there are concerns about who could safely be brought into the program. They are still addressing that issue.

Q: Could you provide us with a breakdown of the ratio of people that enter this court and get into the program?

A: I will gather the information for the board and provide to Ben.

Q: Regarding the homeless population, could certain fees be removed such as a ticket they received while sleeping in their car?

A: Yes, that is correct.

#### **VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: NO PLACE LIKE HOME BOARD LETTER**

**Kelly Salmons, Program Coordinator, Housing and Community Development Services**

This item has been moved to February's meeting.

#### **VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

- Drug Medi-Cal: Our rates and fiscal plan have been approved by the Department of Health Care Service. The next step is to secure a contract with Health Care Services. We will then create a board letter which will be brought before the BHAB prior to going to the Board of Supervisors.
- Roadmap: We have received a lot of feedback from the community and councils. We will finalize the roadmap and bring it to the board at the February meeting.
- Health and Human Services Agency received the silver CAPE award. This is the first time that we have submitted an application and received an award.
- Emergency Screening Unit for Children had their grand opening back in December. Services started December 28<sup>th</sup> for the 12 bed unit.

Q: How does the community know that the Emergency Screening Unit is available?

A: Behavioral Health Services have sent out multiple notices and involved the media to let the public and community members know that services are now available.

#### **VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Jenifer Mendel, Chair**

- Priorities for 2018: 1) Address homelessness Countywide with focus on housing; 2) Perform in continuum of the gap analysis wait times for screenings, assessment, and treatment; 3) Support, facilitate, and advocate for environmental alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs prevention policies and monitor the regulation effects of medical and recreational marijuana post Prop 64 including the impacts of impaired driving.

- Data Notebook: Please review and send any feedback to Ben by January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Southern Region Meeting and Mental Health Board Training will be held in San Diego on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Executive Board came up with idea to set aside time during the regular BHAB meeting to discuss certain projects and ongoing issues.
  - Designate 30 minutes to discuss Board Operations. Not slotted as specific. Board would discuss any issue that pertains to the Board.

**VOTE TO ADD 30 MINUTE BOARD OPERATION DISCUSSION TO EVERY MEETING:**

ON MOTION of Tom Behr, seconded by Colin MacKinnon, the BHAB approved addition of 30 minute Board Operations Discussion to every meeting.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2

**IX. ADVOCATE REPORTING**

None

**X. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Concern was raised on the monthly cost of the temporary homeless tent situation.
- Update on bylaws: still pending.

**XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Tom Behr, the meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

**Brown Act Procedure:** *As required by California Government Code 54950 et seq. (Ralph M. Brown Act), a copy of the packet of information that was mailed to Behavioral Health Advisory Board members at the point of posting of this agenda has been placed at the reception desk at 3255 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108, for public inspection, and is available at the site of the meeting for public inspection. Members of the public wanting their own copy of the advance materials may request them under Government Code 6250 et seq. (Public Records Act) and receive them on payment of copying charges of \$0.20/page, and actual mailing charges, if mailing of the material is requested. If you are planning to attend and need special accommodations, you must call Jackson Alexander at (858) 505-6521, at least three days in advance of the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,



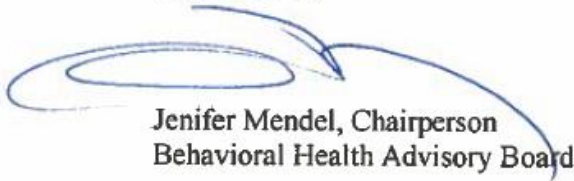
Sarah Alvarado, Secretary to the Director  
Behavioral Health Services

Reviewed by,



Benjamin Parmentier, Administrative Analyst III  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board Support Staff

Approved by,



Jenifer Mendel, Chairperson  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board

For BHAB documents, agenda, minutes and Director's Reports, please read or download from  
the Network of Care Behavioral Health Advisory Board at:  
<http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/content.aspx?id=257>